

who find themselves in that program simply because they have some reading difficulties.

So I do not take a back seat to anybody in relationship to what this committee has done during the last 2 years to try to improve education and job training in this country.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield to me just for a short question?

Mr. GOODLING. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, how many of the 21 bills that the gentleman has cited have become law?

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, we are going to have Higher Education, we are going to have Reading Excellence.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, we are going to.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, we are going to have Prepaid College Tuition Plans. We are going to have Job Training Reform. We are going to have Emergency Student Loans. We are going to have Quality Head Start. We are going to have School Nutrition. We are going to have Charter Schools. We are going to have Drug Education Initiatives. We already have \$500 million more for Special Education. We have a Loan Forgiveness for New Teachers. We had to bail out the department in order to get the loan situation straightened out.

All of those are there in law by the time we finish at 1 or 2 o'clock this morning. It will be a magnificent effort on the part of the committee of which the gentleman from Missouri was a part.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report on H.R. 3874, the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Amendments of 1998. This legislation shows what we can do when we put partisanship aside in the name of commitment to our Nation's children.

The Federal child nutrition programs provide access to the healthy meals that are essential to the success of our children today, and well into the future. The reauthorization measure before us this morning strengthens and improves the nutrition programs to meet the needs of children and their families as we move into the 21st century. For instance, this legislation will reimburse schools and other institutions for snacks that they provide to children under age 18 in after-school programs.

The majority of violence and other crimes committed against and by youth occurs after school—between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. I believe that the support we provide for after-school programs in this legislation renews our commitment to the prevention of juvenile crime and the provisions of positive alternatives for youth.

It is important that we take other steps to shape the nutrition programs to address the situation of today's families.

As we have all heard time and time again, the most important meal of the day is breakfast. An alarming number of children do not eat breakfast, and thus begin their school day lacking the nutrients and energy to effectively

learn. This is not just a problem tied to poverty. In our society, more and more parents have to work, regardless of their economic status.

It is my opinion that one of the most important and cost-effective commitments we can make toward strengthening education in this country is by providing breakfast for every schoolchild. That is why I enthusiastically endorsed Congresswoman WOOLSEY's legislation to authorize universal school breakfast. Through her advocacy, we have been able to include in this legislation a pilot program, which would follow the implementation of universal school breakfast in six States and report on what I believe will be its strong success.

I would have preferred that this legislation authorize mandatory spending for this pilot, to ensure that dedicated, consistent funding is provided over the five years of the program and its accompanying study. I urge appropriations to commit themselves to funding this program for the length of this authorization, as some in the State already have pledged to do.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3874 renews our firm commitment to the health and success of our Nation's children, and I strongly support its passage.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3874.

The question was taken.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3874.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1853, CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1853), to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration; that all points of order be waived; and that the conference report be considered as read.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING)?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the unanimous consent request, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Conference Agreement on H.R. 1853, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Amendments of 1998.

I cannot think of a better gentleman to have this bill named. I do not want to put "for" at the end a sentence; I am an educator. But Carl was just a wonderful friend, a great chairman, and certainly a strong supporter of vocational education.

This agreement is based upon four overarching principles: Strengthening academics in this country's vocational-technical educational program; broadening opportunities for vocational education students, particularly in areas of high technology; sending more money to the classroom; and significantly increasing State and local flexibility for the design of innovative programs that are responsive to local needs.

This legislation will move our Nation's vocational-technical education programs into the 21st Century, and more importantly will assist the 75 percent of American youth who do not complete a 4-year college degree.

Our Nation's young people should receive a high quality education whether they are bound for college, the military, further training, or directly into the work force.

Today's vocational education students need a quality education, a strong academic foundation, and relevant skills in order to thrive in today's economy.

This legislation makes a number of important improvements to current law that authorizes vocational education programs.

First, the agreement will strengthen the academic component of vocational education. It asks States and local school districts to describe in their State and local applications how they plan to improve the academic and technical skills of students participating in vocational education.

It also asks States to tell us how vocational education students will be taught to the same challenging academic proficiencies as all other students. The legislation broadens opportunities for students participating in vocational education programs.

In 1950, 60 percent of all jobs in the Nation were unskilled. In 1990, this figure dropped to 35 percent. By the year